

2017

*Merry Christmas*

We wish you a very Merry Christmas and a happy and  
healthy New Year!  
The Sermak Family  
Tom, Lysa, Danny & Nikki





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It's hard to believe that Christmas is right around the corner. Where did this year go?

Nikki is a sophomore at Front Range Community College, in Westminster, CO. She's scheduled to graduate next summer, in 2018 with an Associate of Arts Degree. She's thinking about becoming a teacher and teaching high school English. She's still playing the piano. She had a spring and fall recital. In the spring, she played 'Pride and Prejudice' by Dawn, and 'I See Fire' by Ed Sheeran. In the fall, she played a melody from 'La La Land'. It's a joy to be able to listen to her play. She also took two trips to Houston, TX this year to see Tom's cousin, Danielle. She eventually wants to move to Texas.

Danny is a senior at The University of Colorado-Boulder. He's scheduled to graduate in May, 2018 with a BS in Finance and a Minor in Math (with his engineering classes). While at school, he's an Audio Visual Student Manager, a Director of Technology for Beta Alpha Psi, and a Student Ambassador. He's also a Mentor of incoming students. During the summer, he had an internship at United Launch Alliance (which is a combination of Boeing and Lockheed Martin). We're happy to say that he already has a job lined up with Lockheed Martin after he graduates in May!!!

As for Tom and Lysa, we are both still employed (thank goodness!). Tom celebrated his 60<sup>th</sup> birthday on February 17<sup>th</sup> and we celebrated our 25<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary on May 30<sup>th</sup>. We renewed our vows and had the rings blessed again by Fr. Accu. We then spent the day in Estes Park, CO. It was a beautiful day, and we had a wonderful time. Our gift to each other was a European trip. We did 'The Heart of Europe Circle Tour' from October 2<sup>nd</sup> thru October 16<sup>th</sup>. It covered 7 countries in 15 days (granted that two of those days were travel days). We were on a bus tour with 44 other people from all over America. We especially bonded with a couple from Augusta, KS - Dewain & Jan Boehm, and did everything with them. We were so much alike, and wanted to see the same things. We also wanted to experience the outdoor cafes and taste the country's beer/wine. They were also happy that they weren't the youngest couple on the tour! Here are the countries that we visited:

**Germany** – Heidelberg, Rothenburg ob der Tauber, Munich and the village of Oberammergau (known for the elaborate production of the Passion play performed every 10 years).

**Austria** – Innsbruck

**Italy** – Lake Garda, Verona and Venice. We took a boat ride through the Venetian Lagoon to get to Venice, and got to take a gondola ride (as you can see from the picture).

**Switzerland** – Lugano, the village of Stans (where we reached the summit of Mt. Stanserhorn by cogwheel train and the world's only open-top cable car). The views were breathtaking! We ended the day by taking a scenic cruise on Lake Lucerne.

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**France** – Drove through the Alsace and Franche-Compte regions to Besancon. Spent the night in Troyes before arriving in Paris the next morning. When we got there, we took a Seine River Cruise and saw Notre Dame, the Louvre and the Eiffel Tower. We also went inside Notre Dame, and it was very impressive and was on our wish list to see.

**Belgium** – Antwerp (known for their chocolates & waffles). Of course, we had to bring home some chocolates!

**Holland** – Volendam and Amsterdam. We took a panoramic tour through the canals and harbor of Amsterdam aboard a glass-top boat. Visited the Anne Frank House and the so called 'Red Light District'. Visited a cheese/wooden clog shoe maker.

**Back to Germany** – Travelled by boat on the Rhine River Valley on a river cruise passing hillside vineyards and castle ruins. Spent our last night & dinner in the village of Rudesheim, located on the banks of the Rhine River. Next day, our flight back home, Frankfurt->Atlanta->Denver. Home Sweet Home!!

We can say that this was a trip of a lifetime! We were so happy and fortunate enough to take this trip. We wished we were able to spend more time in each country, but this gave us a little taste of everything. We definitely want to go back and spend more time in Germany, Austria and Switzerland.

In other news, our friend Steve Sarnow, came out to surprise Tom for this 60<sup>th</sup> birthday party, but ended up spending three weeks in a hospital/rehab center after a skiing accident. He broke his leg, but we are very grateful that he's still with us. He came out again in August to do some camping with his brother, Stuart and sister-in-law, Marcella. Tom's cousin, Jim Radaszewski, came out for his yearly visit in June. We were also visited by another of Tom's cousin, Kathy Sermak in October (the night before we left for Europe). She was here on a book tour promoting her book, 'Miss D & Me'. She was Bette Davis' personal assistant for the last ten years of Miss Davis' life. Although the visit was short, we had a wonderful time with her.


Tom didn't ride the bike at all this year. He hit that magic 21,000 miles (since 2004), and he just got bored. Instead, because we were told to prepare to walk three miles a day in Europe, he got plenty of walks in while walking with Lucy our dog. Lucy loves the walks, and Tom loves walking the neighborhood with her.

We lost three uncles this year. Tom lost his Uncle Cas Sermak in California, and Lysa lost her Uncle's Guy Boivin and Andre Cloutier in Quebec. May they rest in peace in our Lord's kingdom.

As we end this letter, we wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a healthy and prosperous New Year. Remember, the bar is always open here in Colorado!

Love,

Tom, Lysa, Danny, Nikki and Lucy (woof)



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